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INFO OCT-01 EUR-17 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
CCO-00 JPM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NEA-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20
AID-28 PC-04 IO-13 NEA-13 OPR-02 E-15 COM-08 INT-06 EA-10 RSR-01
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O 010825Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4563
INFO AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCUSAFE
USCINCEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
AMEMBASSY BAIDA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 12 JUL 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
B1 or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 2088

1. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM BROADCASTING STATION TRIPOLI TO WHICH I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ARMED LIBYAN ARMY CAPTAIN AND FOLLOWED BY TWO OR THREE SALADIINS. GOULDING OF BRITISH EMBASSY WAS IN CAR. WE STOPPED ENROUTE AT SOVIET AND FRENCH EMBASSIES TO PICK UP RESPECTIVE CHARGES WHO JOINED PROCESSION IN OWN VEHICLES. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MACK OF POLITICAL SECTION.

2. PARTY WAS RECEIVED BY LIBYAN ARMY CAPTAIN WHO, SPEAKING QUIETLY AND COURTEOUSLY IN ARABIC WITHOUT ANY SHOW OF EMOTION, STATED THAT MOVEMENT WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE THIS MORNING WAS THAT BY THE PEOPLE OF WHICH THE ARMY WAS AN INTEGRAL PART. STATED THAT ACTION TAKEN BY ARMY WAS BASED ON HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AND WAS REACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND GREAT GAP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN LIBYAN PEOPLE AND THOSE ON THE TOP. WENT ON TO SAY THAT "NEGATIVE POSITION" OF LIBYA WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WAS ALSO A FACT AND DECLARED THAT ARMY WILL RESPECT ALL RPT ALL AGREEMENTS AND TREATIES AND WILL OBSERVE RIGHTS OF PETROLEUM COMPANIES. ALSO STATED THAT NEW REGIME IS ON

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"SIDE OF PEACE" IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD AND THAT IT HOPED FOR SETTLEMENT OF VIETNAM WAR ON JUST BASIS. CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT NEW REGIME RESPECTS ALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SPECIFICALLY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ARAB LEAGUE AND RIGHTS OF MAN.

3. AT CONCLUSION FOREGOING COMMENTS, I ASKED ARMY CAPTAIN ON WHOSE BEHALF HE WAS CONVEYING FOREGOING TO US. HE REPLIED "LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC". HE THEN ADDED THAT THERE NEED BE NO CONCERN FOR RIGHTS OF ANY MEMBERS OF FOREIGN COMMUNITY IN COUNTRY. I THEN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) EMBASSY WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE THIS MORNING. MY PRESENCE, THEREFORE, WAS SIMPLY IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION.

B) STATEMENT CAPTAIN HAD MADE REGARDING PROTECTION OF FOREIGNERS WAS ACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, LIBYAN SOLDIER EARLIER THAT MORNING HAD POKED RIFLE THROUGH SMALL WINDOW OF EMBASSY FRONT DOOR IN CLEARLY MENACING ACTION. I WOULD EXPECT THOSE IN CHARGE OF GUARDS AROUND EMBASSY TO MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE AMONG THEM. IN REPLY ARMY SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED CONCERN TO WHICH CAPTAIN WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED US ADDED THAT ACTION BY INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER WAS ACT OF IGNORANCE.

4. ALMOST AS AFTERTHOUGHT, ARMY SPOKESMAN STATED THAT THIS MORNING'S MOVEMENT HAD NO IDEOLOGICAL COLORATION BUT THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT "THEY" WERE OPPOSED TO SOCIALISM. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER WHEELUS COULD REDUCE ITS "TRAINING ACTIVITIES". I REPLIED THAT I HAD REQUESTED CO WHEELUS TO INSURE THAT NO RPT NO AIRCRAFT OVERFLY TRIPOLI. ARMY SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER I COULD HAVE NAME OF SPOKESMAN, HE DECLINED PROVIDE IT.

5. REQUEST AMEMBASSY LONDON PASS FOREGOING TO COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WITH MESSAGE FROM GOULDING THAT HE WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS AND HAS REQUESTED ARMY TO PERMIT COMMUNICATOR TO COME TO EMBASSY. ARMY SPOKESMAN'S ANSWER WAS THAT HE WOULD "STUDY" MATTER.

6. TRIPOLI STREETS DESERTED EXCEPT FOR MILITARY WHO HAVE BEEN JOINED BY ARMED NAVAL ELEMENTS. NO SIGN OF ANY

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ACTIVITY BY RLAF BUT INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO SIX LIEUTENANTS AND TWO CAPTAINS TO VISIT AIR FORCE COMMAND CENTER. WHEN WE RODE THROUGH TOWN WE SAW POLICE LINED UP BEHIND ARMY GUARDS ON SIDEWALKS IN VICNITY ALGERIA SQUARE AND TOWN HALL. MOST CLEAR IMPRESSION OF EVENTS SO FAR IS THAT VERY JUNIOR OFFICERS SEEM TO BE RUNNING SHOW.

FURTHER IDENTIFICATION OF COLONEL SA'ADIIN BU SHAWAARIB INDICATES HE WAS MEMBER OF ARMY UP TO AT LEAST OCTOBER 1967 AT WHICH TIME HE WAS LT COLONEL AND CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, FIRST BRIGADE. FOLLOWING RETIREMENT, HE REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN PUBLIC NOTARY. ALTHOUGH RADIO HAS IDENTIFIED HIM AS QTE STAFF COLONEL UNQTE NO INDICATION AS YET AS TO WHETHER HE HAS ACCEPTED POSITION OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF.

7. WE JUST INFORMED BY BENGHAZI MOVEMENT HAS EXTENDED TO THAT CITY SITUATION UNCLEAR.
BLAKE

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